

It was in this spirit that he wrote the "Republique," the great work which the jurist combined with the philosopher to produce, and which appeared in 1576 in the vernacular, and afterwards in Latin. In regard to the question of sovereignty in general, he holds that the people may alienate it, may agree to make it over to a monarch, an aristocracy, a democracy, and that, having done so, it ceases to have control over it. Otherwise, it could not be sovereignty. The very idea of sovereignty involves the absence of limitations or conditions. The sovereign power of a State must be absolute, and if this power is invested in a monarch, no other body in the State has the right of control over him. He is as insistent on this point as Hobbes himself, who borrowed from him his doctrine of unconditional sovereignty. The people, in the case of the sovereignty of a single individual, to whom it may have made over the right to rule it, is no longer the depositary of the sovereign power, and this individual is neither accountable to the people nor bound by the law. He is absolute ruler. Moreover, there can be no such thing as a mixed constitution, a division of sovereignty. The sovereignty, if once alienated by the people, resides absolutely in the person or persons to whom it is given. It cannot be in the people and the monarch, or in the people and the aristocracy, or in all three at the same time. In other words, the State may be either monarchic, aristocratic, or democratic in form ; it cannot be a mixture of these forms. It must be simple, must be one and indivisible. Otherwise, both sovereignty and subjection would, he thinks, be impossible. The sovereignty cannot be shared by the monarch and the States-General, as the pamphleteers, whether of the League or the Huguenot camp, assert. " They are guilty of the crime of Lese Majeste who make the subjects the partner of the sovereign power."<sup>71</sup> Such a State never, according to Bodin, existed, or can exist, and it could only exist to be destroyed by the conflict to which its various elements would give rise, and which could only end with the supremacy of king, or aristocracy, or democracy. Mixed States are reducible to one or other of these as far as the exercise of the sovereignty is concerned. While the form of the State, the government, may vary, the sovereignty must remain simple. Bodin anticipates Rousseau